

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update

September 1 - 7, 2010

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 6:00pm, including Labor Day 9/6

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623) or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo, for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads. The roads will be busy this weekend, so please drive with care.

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! **YARTS** (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs weekends from the communities of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley; visit the web at www.yarts.com for a schedule.

Shuttle bus service to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is in operation through 9/8. Day visitors and backpackers must use the shuttle bus, as parking is limited. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for shuttle information, recreation conditions, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** safety tips. The Big Pine, Devils Golf Course, West Side, Salt Creek, Charcoal Kilns and Mahogany Flat dirt roads are open. Titus Canyon road is open; high clearance vehicles recommended. The North Pass Road into Saline Valley is open; high clearance 4x4 required. The South Pass road into Saline Valley is posted closed due to washouts and rocky debris from recent flooding. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. Check the website at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section) for descriptions of backcountry roads, and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: Sunny days with warming temperatures are expected for the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave regions through Saturday, as high pressure builds over the region. A Pacific storm system is forecast to move across Northern California Sunday, producing gusty winds and lower temperatures by early next week. Highs have been in the upper 40s in the mountains, lower 90s in the Owens Valley and around 110 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the mid 30s in the mountains to the upper 70s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY, MONO COUNTY** and **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities with hookups are open throughout the region.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead of arrival. Check the website at recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 for more information.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat), Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek, White Wolf, Tamarack Flat, Bridalveil Creek (on Glacier Point Road), Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley, one-half of Crane Flat and one-half of Tuolumne Meadows. Call 1-209-372-0200 for recorded Yosemite information, or visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Furnace Creek, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/no fee/no campfires), Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee/no campfires) and Wildrose (no water/no fee/no campfires). Visit the park website at www.nps.gov/deva for more information. RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort.

Campsites are available throughout **SEQUOIA\KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS** on a first-come/first-served and reservation basis. For recorded information to plan a visit to the park, call 1-559-565-3341 or www.nps.gov/seki.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County	California - Department of Transportation	Bureau of Land Management
California - Department of Fish & Game	National Park Service	Mono County
City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power		USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and these waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. Copies of California fishing regulations are available on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

MONDAY – September 6th: CALIFORNIA FREE FISHING DAY

If you're new to the sport of fishing, and not sure if you will enjoy it, the Department of Fish and Game has a great deal for you. Fish without having to buy a license on free fishing days! These days are a great, low-cost way to give fishing a try.

HUNTING: Hunting season for Dove opens 9/1. Archery season for quail, chukar and Blue/Ruffed grouse is open in the Eastern Sierra. Archery season for deer is open in zones X-8, X-9a/b/c and X-12 (primarily Alpine, Mono and Inyo Counties). X-10 (the Kern Plateau) is open through 9/5. Archery on the west side of the Sierra crest is open in zones D-6 (north & west of Yosemite National Park), D-8 (north, west & south of Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks, also the northern portion of the Sequoia National Forest) and D-9 (between SR 178 & SR 58 with SR 14 on the east). D-17 (primarily San Bernardino County, including the Mojave National Preserve) opens 9/4. Hunters should keep in mind many people use these areas for other types of sports; it's much safer to avoid hunting near developed sites, roads and trails. Hunting is not permitted in National Parks.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage. Hikers should be aware; archery hunting season for deer and upland game birds is open for many locations in the Sierra Nevada (except National Parks). In areas open to hunting, it's a good idea to wear brightly colored clothes and stay on the trails.

BEARS (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Mammoth Lakes/Rush Creek trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations including the Visitor Center.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas, permits may be obtained at the InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) and Bridgeport Ranger Station during office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, please visit the website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo. Reservations for these permits (except Whitney) can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail – 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA, 93514.

THIS WEEK'S FUN: EASTERN SIERRA TRI-COUNTY FAIR – BISHOP - Opens Thursday 9/2 and continues through Monday 9/6. An old-fashion country fair with lots of home grown exhibits and displays including many popular events such as a carnival, rodeo, live music, great food, the destruction derby, and much, much more. For information, call 1-760-873-3588.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW IN BISHOP CITY PARK - 9/3 through 9/6, featuring art, photography, jewelry, weavings, wood carving, ceramics, gourd art, clothing, food, and more. On Friday-Sunday open 9am-6 pm and on Monday open 9am - 2 pm. For more information, contact Inyo Council for the Arts at 1-760-873-8014.

41ST ANNUAL MAMMOTH LAKES LABOR DAY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS - 9/4 through 9/6, located at Sam's Wood Site on Minaret Road, between Main (Hwy 203) and Meridian Road open from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Mammoth's premier art event with artists, contemporary craftsmen, children's entertainment, food and family fun. For information, call 1-760-873-7242.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 8:00am to 6:00pm (open 9/6); the museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. A history talk is presented daily at 10:00am. Other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for information. Visitors should bring food and several layers of clothes for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Interpretive programs are offered at the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE**. Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open Sunday through Thursday from 8:00am to 5:00pm and Friday and Saturday from 8:00am to 7:00pm (open 9/6), for a complete list of activities on this remarkable lake.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm (open 9/6). Ranger programs are presented on Saturday and Sunday at 11:00am and 2:00pm. For more program information, call 1-760-878-2194 ext. 2710. Water, sunglasses and sunscreen are a must - Please No Pets!

Visit the **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**, with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. A special orientation film is available on request. The museum opens daily at 10:00am, closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday, and at 4:00pm on Sunday (open 9/6).

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm (including 9/6). **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 9/1/10kcw